

In re Application of OSHINS et al.
Serial No. 09/558,469

REMARKS

The Office action has been carefully considered. The Office action rejected claims 1-23 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,185,677 to Nijhawan ("Nijhawan") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,937,175 to Sescila, III et al ("Sescila"). The Office action objected to each of claims 24-31 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and indicated each would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Finally, the Office action indicated that claims 33-48 are allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 33-48 are allowed and indicating that the subject matter recited in claims 24-31 is allowable. By present amendment, claims 24, 25 and 28 have been canceled and new claim 49 has been added. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 28, and claims 28 and 13 were canceled as duplicative. New claim 49 has been added to include the subject matter of allowable claim 24 and all the limitations of base claim 15, and claim 24 was canceled as duplicative. Claim 15 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 25, and claim 25 was canceled as duplicative. As a result, dependent claims 14, 26, 27, 29 and 31 were respectively amended to refer to their correct independent claims. Applicants submit that all the pending claims now include the allowable subject matter indicated.

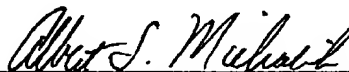
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-12, 14-23, 26-27, and 29-49 are patentable over the prior art of record, and that the application is in good and proper form for allowance. A favorable action on the part of the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (425) 836-3030.

Respectfully submitted,



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